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RESEARCH NOTE



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CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
COLUMBUS, OHIO

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FOREST AREA IN MISSOURI COUNTIES

In 1959, Missouri's forests occupied 15.3 million acres or 34.5 percent of the State's total land area. All but about 320,000 acres of this forest land is capable of producing commercial timber.

Three Missouri counties--Shannon, Texas, and Reynolds--contain more than 400,000 acres of forest land each. Shannon with 517,200 forest acres leads all other counties. Only five counties have less than 25,000 acres of woodland each. Worth County in the northwestern corner of the State has the least forest cover, 16,200 acres.

Forests occupy more than 75 percent of the total land area in each of six Missouri counties, all located in the heavily forested Eastern Ozarks Region. Ten counties are less than 10 percent forested. The forest area in each county ranges from 6.7 percent in Pemiscot to 85.4 percent in Carter.

The total forest acreage of the State as a whole has increased only slightly since 1947 when the first comprehensive forest inventory of Missouri was conducted. However, significant changes have occurred in several counties and in certain regions of the State. Forest acreage has increased in 64 counties and decreased in 49. Forest area has increased in the sparsely forested Northern Prairie Region where many acres of idle cropland and pastureland have reverted to forest. On the other hand, forest area has decreased sharply because of extensive land clearing for agriculture in the alluvial flatlands of southeastern Missouri.

County	Forest land area 1/			: Total forest as : Change in total		
	Total	Commercial2/	Non-commercial3/	: a percent of	: forest land area	: since 1947
	M Acres	M Acres	M Acres	Percent	M Acres	Percent
Adair	69.2	66.0	3.2	18.8	+ 9.2	+15.3
Andrew	36.2	36.1	.1	13.2	+ 7.2	+24.8
Atchison	31.5	31.4	.1	9.0	+ 9.5	+43.2
Audrain	47.8	47.6	.2	10.8	+17.8	+59.3
Barry	264.4	255.1	9.3	51.6	+53.4	+25.3
Barton	36.1	35.9	.2	9.5	+ 8.1	+28.9
Bates	72.3	71.9	.4	13.4	+ 9.3	+14.8
Benton	233.1	220.5	12.6	49.1	+ 5.1	+ 2.2
Bollinger	214.7	212.8	1.9	54.0	- 4.3	- 2.0
Boone	91.0	90.8	.2	20.8	--	--
Buchanan	37.5	37.4	.1	14.3	+13.5	+56.3
Butler	245.3	243.5	1.8	53.7	- 6.7	- 2.7
Caldwell	35.0	34.9	.1	12.7	+14.0	+66.7
Callaway	180.0	179.6	.4	33.7	+ 8.0	+ 4.7
Camden	291.7	264.4	27.3	69.6	-23.3	- 7.4
Cape Girardeau	85.8	82.8	3.0	23.3	- 3.2	- 3.6
Carroll	48.9	48.7	.2	11.0	+15.9	+48.2
Carter	276.6	269.3	7.3	85.4	-12.4	- 4.3
Cass	50.3	50.0	.3	11.3	+ 7.3	+17.0
Cedar	108.9	103.0	5.9	34.3	+17.9	+19.7
Chariton	65.2	65.0	.2	13.4	+ 1.2	+ 1.9
Christian	178.0	173.7	4.3	49.0	+ 6.0	+ 3.5
Clark	64.5	64.3	.2	19.8	+11.5	+21.7
Clay	25.3	25.2	.1	9.6	+ .3	+ 1.2
Clinton	22.6	22.5	.1	8.4	+ 6.6	+41.3
Cole	87.4	87.2	.2	35.5	+ 8.4	+10.6
Cooper	64.7	64.3	.4	18.0	+ 8.7	+15.5
Crawford	324.5	321.9	2.6	66.7	-31.5	- 8.8
Dade	71.2	70.8	.4	22.1	+ 6.2	+ 9.5
Dallas	157.1	148.4	8.7	45.7	+ 2.1	+ 1.4
Daviess	49.6	49.4	.2	13.8	+18.6	+60.0
DeKalb	27.8	27.7	.1	10.3	+ 8.8	+46.3
Dent	325.9	323.0	2.9	67.4	-14.1	- 4.1
Douglas	324.3	321.6	2.7	62.6	+13.3	+ 4.3
Dunklin	30.8	30.7	.1	8.9	-28.2	-47.8
Franklin	254.3	246.9	7.4	42.6	- 6.7	- 2.6
Gasconade	164.1	163.7	.4	49.3	-18.9	-10.3
Gentry	41.4	41.3	.1	13.3	+ 7.4	+21.8
Greene	86.1	85.6	.5	19.9	- 1.9	- 2.2
Grundy	37.0	36.0	1.0	13.3	+ 7.0	+23.3
Harrison	49.5	49.3	.2	10.7	+ 3.5	+ 7.6
Henry	73.7	73.3	.4	15.6	- 1.3	- 1.7
Hickory	126.0	119.2	6.8	48.0	-23.0	-15.4
Holt	39.2	38.4	.8	13.4	+10.2	+35.2
Howard	64.7	64.5	.2	21.6	+22.7	+54.0
Howell	364.4	361.6	2.8	61.9	+ .4	+ .1
Iron	279.0	277.4	1.6	78.7	-11.0	- 3.8
Jackson	53.3	53.0	.3	13.8	+14.3	+36.7
Jasper	61.7	61.3	.4	15.0	-11.3	-15.5
Jefferson	215.8	215.3	.5	50.6	-14.2	- 6.2
Johnson	76.7	73.1	3.6	14.5	+18.7	+32.2
Knox	41.0	40.9	.1	12.5	+ 4.0	+10.8
Laclede	255.4	242.3	13.1	51.8	-21.6	- 7.8
Lafayette	38.7	38.5	.2	9.5	- .3	- .8
Lawrence	77.9	77.4	.5	19.7	+ .9	+ 1.2
Lewis	56.2	56.0	.2	17.4	+ 1.2	+ 2.2
Lincoln	101.3	95.3	6.0	25.2	- .7	- .7
Linn	46.2	44.4	1.8	11.6	+17.2	+59.3
Livingston	55.7	55.5	.2	16.3	+ 9.7	+21.1
McDonald	213.6	211.7	1.9	61.8	- 5.4	- 2.5
Macon	91.8	91.5	.3	17.6	+12.8	+16.2
Madison	230.0	226.0	4.0	72.5	+ 1.0	+ .4
Maries	182.6	172.7	9.9	54.2	- 6.4	- 3.4
Marion	50.5	50.3	.2	17.9	- 6.5	-11.4
Mercer	31.6	31.5	.1	10.8	- 3.4	- 9.7

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	M Acres	M Acres	M Acres	Percent	M Acres Percent
Miller	194.3	181.3	13.0	50.3	-22.7 -10.5
Mississippi	32.2	31.2	1.0	12.2	-26.8 -45.4
Moniteau	68.3	68.1	.2	25.5	+13.3 +24.2
Monroe	66.6	65.4	1.2	15.6	+ 7.6 +12.9
Montgomery	97.5	97.3	.2	28.6	- 1.5 - 1.5
Morgan	202.9	191.9	11.0	53.2	-10.1 - 4.7
New Madrid	44.0	43.9	.1	10.1	-30.0 -40.5
Newton	159.5	158.1	1.4	39.6	+28.5 +21.8
Nodaway	50.4	50.2	.2	9.0	+16.4 +48.2
Oregon	358.4	356.0	2.4	71.4	+ 6.4 + 1.8
Osage	198.9	198.5	.4	51.7	-13.1 - 6.2
Osark	335.5	322.8	12.7	69.9	-18.5 - 5.2
Pemiscot	20.9	20.9	--	6.7	- 9.1 -30.3
Perry	100.1	99.8	.3	32.9	-10.9 - 9.8
Pettis	64.7	64.3	.4	14.9	+ 9.7 +17.6
Phelps	259.4	247.9	11.5	59.9	-14.6 - 5.3
Pike	109.9	108.3	1.6	25.2	- 6.1 - 5.3
Platte	48.6	48.4	.2	18.3	+16.6 +51.9
Polk	127.3	120.4	6.9	31.0	+16.3 +14.7
Pulaski	222.7	212.4	10.3	63.1	+ 7.7 + 3.6
Putnam	54.1	53.9	.2	16.3	+ 5.1 +10.4
Ralls	56.7	56.5	.2	18.5	- .3 - .5
Randolph	53.4	53.2	.2	17.2	- 5.6 - 9.5
Ray	56.6	56.4	.2	15.4	+10.6 +23.0
Reynolds	431.6	418.9	12.7	82.0	-13.4 - 3.0
Ripley	306.8	304.9	1.9	75.0	+17.8 + 6.2
Saint Charles	86.6	86.4	.2	24.1	- 2.4 - 2.7
Saint Clair	175.6	166.1	9.5	39.2	+ 6.6 + 3.9
Sainte Genevieve	167.9	165.3	2.6	52.5	-15.1 - 8.3
Saint Francois	151.5	150.0	1.5	51.8	- 7.5 - 4.7
Saint Louis	68.9	66.5	2.4	19.3	+ 6.9 +11.1
Saline	60.9	60.1	.8	12.5	+13.9 +29.6
Schuyler	24.6	24.5	.1	12.6	+ 2.6 +11.8
Scotland	39.7	39.6	.1	14.1	+13.7 +52.7
Scott	24.2	24.1	.1	9.0	- 5.8 -19.3
Shannon	517.2	512.9	4.3	80.9	- 7.8 - 1.5
Shelby	44.8	44.6	.2	13.9	- 6.2 -12.2
Stoddard	82.4	82.3	.1	15.4	-46.6 -36.1
Stone	189.0	186.8	2.2	58.0	+ 6.0 + 3.3
Sullivan	60.6	60.4	.2	14.5	+23.6 +63.8
Taney	309.5	291.5	18.0	73.7	-10.5 - 3.3
Texas	479.1	475.2	3.9	63.3	- 9.9 - 2.0
Vernon	87.5	87.0	.5	16.3	+ 9.5 +12.2
Warren	126.1	125.8	.3	46.0	- 4.9 - 3.7
Washington	352.9	349.5	3.4	72.6	-12.1 - 3.3
Wayne	378.4	366.7	11.7	79.8	+ .4 + .1
Webster	161.7	160.2	1.5	42.8	+ 2.7 + 1.7
Worth	16.2	16.1	.1	9.5	- 1.8 -10.0
Wright	235.1	233.1	2.0	53.7	+18.1 + 8.3
State total	15,296.3	14,976.9	319.4	34.5	+109.3 + .7

1/ Forest land includes areas at least 10 percent stocked with species of forest trees that are capable of producing timber or other wood products, as well as land from which the trees have been removed to less than 10 percent stocking, as long as this land has not been developed for other uses. The minimum size of tract recognized as forest is 1 acre; the minimum width for a wooded strip is 120 feet.

2/ Commercial forest land includes forest land that is producing, or is physically capable of producing, usable crops of industrial wood (usually saw logs and pulpwood but excluding fuelwood). Commercial forest land is available or prospectively available, and not withdrawn from timber utilization.

3/ Noncommercial forest land includes forest land that qualifies as commercial forest but is withdrawn from timber utilization through statute, ordinance, or administrative order such as state parks or forest land that is incapable of yielding a stand averaging at least one saw log per tree.

This forest area information resulted from a comprehensive resurvey of Missouri's forest resources which was completed through the combined efforts of the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the School of Forestry of the University of Missouri, and the Missouri Conservation Commission. The T. J. Moss Tie Company also assisted with the survey in certain areas. The University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station is publishing regional statistical reports covering this resurvey. The Central States Forest Experiment Station will publish an analytical report for the State as a whole.

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